

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior listings of claims in the application.

Listing Of Claims:

1. (currently amended) An image ~~reading~~ forming apparatus comprising:
  - an original convey unit adapted to move an original in a sub-scanning direction;
  - an image reading unit adapted to read the original while moving the original by using said original convey unit and output image data;
  - an abnormality detection unit adapted to detect abnormal data output from said image reading unit before said image reading unit reads the original;
  - an image forming unit adapted to form an image, which is read from the original by said image reading unit, on a sheet; and
  - ~~a control unit adapted to limit reading operation of an original having a predetermined size in a main scanning direction by said image reading unit while moving the original by using said convey unit in accordance with the position of the abnormal data detected by said abnormality detection unit in the main scanning direction~~ a size of the sheet in accordance with a position of the abnormal data so that the abnormal data does not appear on the image formed on the sheet by said image forming unit.
2. (previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said abnormality detection unit detects continuity and a position of the abnormal data read by said image reading unit in the main scanning direction.
3. (canceled)
4. (previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said abnormality detection unit detects continuity, a position, and a width of the abnormal data in the main scanning direction.
- 5.-10. (canceled)
11. (currently amended) An image ~~reading~~ forming method of reading an original while moving the original in a sub-scanning direction and outputting image data, comprising:
  - detecting abnormal data before reading the original; and
  - ~~limiting reading operation of an original having a predetermined size in a main scanning direction in accordance with the position of the abnormal data in the main scanning direction~~ a

size of a sheet in accordance with a position of the abnormal data so that the abnormal data does not appear on the image formed on the sheet by said image forming unit; and

\_\_\_\_\_ forming an image, which is read from the original, on the sheet.

12. (previously presented) The method according to claim 11, wherein the abnormality detection, continuity and a position of the abnormal data are detected in the main scanning direction.

13. (canceled)

14. (previously presented) The method according to claim 11, wherein in the abnormality detection, continuity, a position, and a width of the abnormal data are detected in the main scanning direction.

15. (canceled)

16. (original) A program characterized by causing a computer to execute the image forming ~~reading~~ method defined in claim 11.

17. (original) A storage medium characterized by storing the program defined in claim 16 as a computer-readable program.

18.-23. (canceled)